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fulness of detail characteristic of some of the larger works, on the other." He has met with a commendable degree of success. The whole range of topics of the law of evidence and of those generally considered with it is covered, and the treatment, while in no case exhaustive, is almost uniformly clear in its brevity. It is doubtful if such a book would be a satisfactory medium through which to introduce the novice into the mysteries and complexities of the law of evidence; such a one might well feel that he had here and there missed a step, and that he was hurried from one topic to another before he had probed to the very bottom of the first. Indeed, for the fundamentals, for the purely historical basis of many of the exceptions to the hearsay rule for instance, the student must go to another book. To one who has some acquaintance with the rules of evidence, however, this book adequately performs the service of refreshing the recollection, and is what it purports to be, — a handbook in which leading principles are correctly and succinctly stated. The "summings-up," if the expression may be permitted, are excellent. Lawyers and judges who require a ready knowledge of the subject will find Mr. McKelvey's book a source of strength and comfort.

The book is deserving of praise in that very little of positive error is found between its covers. There is almost none of that confusion, so generally to be met with in treatises on evidence, of giving a term a certain meaning on one page, another meaning on perhaps the next page, and still a third in another part of the book, which results apparently from an inability to treat questions of evidence with anything like definiteness. In the first place, the author has shut out a large field for possible misunderstanding by noticing that it is only after the positive rules of law and of pure logic have had full play that the rules of evidence properly exert their influence. Then, too, the line of demarcation between what are and what are not questions in the law of evidence has seldom been so accurately and firmly drawn as here. Finally, to speak of specific matters, it is satisfactory to find the nature of the burden of proof and of a presumption explained with the precision that they demand, and to which they are entitled. In giving things their right names, the author has certainly performed a service.

In his preface, Mr. McKelvey acknowledges the assistance he has derived from Professor Thayer's collection of Cases on Evidence, and he makes numerous citations from the learned author's notes in that work, and from his articles in the *HARVARD LAW REVIEW*. No disparagement is intended to Mr. McKelvey in saying that a great part of what is valuable in his book is clearly due directly to the teaching of Professor Thayer. The fact is apparent, and the author in no way seeks to conceal it. Better is it, however, that Mr. McKelvey should be lacking in originality than that his book should be less sure in tone and less logical in its arrangement.

R. L. R.

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**LAW-LATIN.** — A Treatise in Latin, with Legal Maxims and Phrases as a Basis of Instruction. By E. Hilton Jackson. Washington, D. C. : John Byrne & Co. · 1897. pp. xiv, 219.

Whether this ingenious little book fulfills, in the usual phrase, a long-felt want, would be hard to say. A knowledge of Latin is convenient, but perhaps hardly indispensable to the modern American lawyer. There may very probably exist, however, a considerable number of law students with no knowledge of Latin, who would like to acquire a little, merely to

aid them in their profession. For such persons this work is very well adapted. Mr. Hilton's course of instruction is brief but well planned, his grammar remarkably compendious, but sufficient for the purpose, and his vocabulary hardly more scanty than is proper for his design. To those who already know a little Latin the interest of the book lies in the list of legal maxims and phrases. This possesses a great deal of merit. The selection, though capable of improvement, is perhaps the best yet extant, embracing 385 headings; and the annotations are commendable for their brevity and unpretentious simplicity. Elaborate attempts to define the application of such maxims as if they were rules of law are a sheer waste of time. Extended criticism of them is profitable only when done from a broad historical point of view, as in Judge Smith's article in 9 HARVARD LAW REVIEW, 13. The work as a whole is accurate as far as is consistent with the omission of all exceptions and qualifications, the only palpable slip noticed being in the vocabulary under the head of *vere*.

R. G.

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A COLLECTION OF OHIO AND FEDERAL CASES ON THE INTERPRETATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF STATUTES. By Francis Bacon James. Cincinnati: W. H. Anderson & Co. 1897. pp. xi, 229.

Paving the way for a collection of cases on the general subject of interpretation and construction of statutes, Mr. James has published this book of selected cases dealing strictly with statutes of the United States and the State of Ohio. Cases are given from the reports of the Supreme Court of Ohio and of the Federal courts. To say that the cases are well selected, well arranged, and well indexed is the highest praise that can be given to a work of this nature; and in all of these respects Mr. James' work is satisfactory. Its primary usefulness is of course confined to Ohio, although the principles involved in the cases must be the same in other States, and the Federal cases have a broader application. The careful compilation promises well for the more inclusive collection now being prepared.

J. G. P.

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ABBREVIATIONS USED IN LAW BOOKS. By Charles C. Soule. The Boston Book Company: Boston, Massachusetts, 1897. pp. 150.

As Mr. Soule's valuable Lawyer's Reference Manual has been allowed to go out of print during the preparation of a new edition, this reprint of that portion of the manual most constantly used by the profession will be of immediate and practical service to many lawyers who do not possess the first edition of the entire work. It is, however, merely a reprint from this first edition of 1883, and is not brought down to date. The new edition of the Manual itself promises to be exceptionally complete, but unfortunately its appearance cannot be expected for some time to come.

H. D. H.

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REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION. Philadelphia: Dando Printing Co. 1897. pp. 592.

The proceedings at the last annual meeting of the American Bar Association, held at Cleveland, Ohio, on August 25th, 26th, and 27th, 1897, are here printed in full, with the constitution and by-laws of the Association, and a list of members. The larger part of the book, however, is the Appendix, containing the various papers read. These were the addresses of